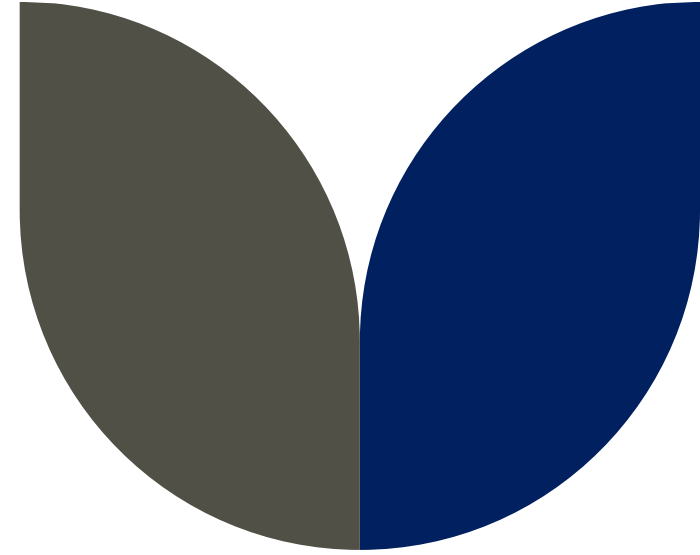




# Engaging persons with disabilities in the Pacific energy sector: An inclusive approach towards achieving SDGs



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Ms Reema Alpana is an Assistant Lecturer of Secondary Education at the Fiji National University (FNU). Ms Alpana is a final-year PhD student at USP and a recipient of the Pacific Scholarship for Excellence in Research & Innovation (PSERI). Her research focuses on inclusive education policy and practice in Fiji's education sector. She holds a MA in Education, was engaged in various teaching roles. She is an active member of the Consortium of Inclusive Teacher Education And Development (CITED), an international group of academics, teacher educators, researchers, and disability advocates from different countries who are passionate about developing strategies and resources for teachers that would enable inclusive education for all learners.

**Presentation Topic:**

**Engaging persons with disabilities in the Pacific energy sector: An inclusive approach towards achieving SDGs**

There is a need for PICs to explore the enablers and barriers to including PWDs in the energy sector and establish means to measure the disability inclusion indicators in policies and practices designed to achieve SDG seven

Data on PWDs may enable governments, policymakers, donors, and other key stakeholders to identify the diverse needs of PWDs, focus on their ability, promote employability and break historical barriers. Finally, it supports the belief that the route to clean energy is connected to quality education, reducing and eliminating inequalities, and various other SDGs, achievable through a holistic, inclusive approach.

## **Inclusion for Persons with disabilities (PWDs)**

- Inclusive education: a process that should focus more on transforming social structures that have been barriers to the equal participation of PWDs, a political critique of social values and understanding and constructively engaging with the diversity within our communities (Barton, 2003, p. 13, para. 3).
- **It is normal to be different!**

# Sustainable Development and Inclusion

- Sustainable development calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet.



- Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

# Bridging the gap between economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection

Do not “dis” their ability.

- Employability (renewable and reachable energies to support and aide PWDs, curriculum differentiation, equity in employment etc)
- Engagement
- Leadership
- Community building
- Dialogue and interaction with communities (disaster risk reduction, safe clean energy consumption)



# Inclusive Sustainable Development

- Building reliance in our fragile Pacific communities.
- Policy → Research → Practice
- Contextually relevant
- Interdisciplinary and holistic approach.

**Vinaka vakalevu!**  
**Thank you**

